

## CHAPTER 16

### FOREST, RECREATION AND LAND ORDINANCE

#### Table of Contents

---

|       |                                     |
|-------|-------------------------------------|
| 16.01 | Authority                           |
| 16.02 | Definitions                         |
| 16.03 | Committee Appointment               |
| 16.04 | Powers and Duties of the Committee  |
| 16.05 | Annual Report                       |
| 16.06 | Forest Finances                     |
| 16.07 | Forest and Land Use Regulations     |
| 16.08 | Survey Regulation                   |
| 16.09 | Enforcement and Penalty Assessments |
| 16.10 | Conflicts                           |
| 16.11 | Publication                         |
| 16.12 | Uniform Schedule of Deposits        |

#### 16.01 Authority.

This chapter is enacted to prescribe rules and regulations for the administration of County powers and duties as provided in Chapters 26, 28, 29, 59, 75 and 77, Wis. Stats., under which the Vilas County Board is granted specific powers relative to the establishment, protection, development, and management of County Lands and Forests to provide sustained yield of forest products for commercial use and the associated benefits of soil and water conservation, scenic values, and fish and game resources; all in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources. All references to Wisconsin Statutes shall include any amendment thereof.

The County Board of Supervisors of Vilas County do ordain as follows:

#### 16.02 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms mean:

- 1) **Agent.** The Vilas County Forest Administrator.
- 2) **Beach.** Any water area or adjacent land area designated as a swim area by standard regulatory markers.
- 3) **Boat Landing.** Any site adjacent to water that provides public access to navigable waters.
- 4) **Board.** Vilas County Board of Supervisors.
- 5) **Camp or Camping.** The use of a shelter such as a tent, trailer, motor vehicle, tarpaulin, bed roll, or sleeping bag for temporary residence or

sleeping purposes.

- 6) **CAMPSITE.** A segment of a campground or camping area which is designated for camping use by a camping unit or camping party.
- 7) **CAMPING UNIT.** A single shelter, except sleeping bags and hammocks, used for a camp by a camping party, except those used exclusively for dining purposes.
- 8) **CAMPING PARTY.** Any individual, family, or individual group occupying a campsite.
- 9) **COMMITTEE.** The Vilas County Forestry, Recreation and Land Committee.
- 10) **COUNTY FOREST LAND.** County land or lands includes all lands previously and subsequently acquired under supervision of the Forestry, Recreation and Land Committee and those lands under land use agreements with the County including Federal, State, Town and private lands that provide forest, wildlife or recreational benefit.
- 11) **COUNTY PROPERTY.** County property includes trees, shrubs, plants and other natural growth, sand and gravel, rocks, archaeological or geological features, gates, signs, walls, tables, piers, and structures.
- 12) **DEPARTMENT.** The Vilas County Forestry, Recreation and Land Department.
- 13) **PERSONNEL.** Includes all individuals involved with the implementation of the Vilas County Forest 15-Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan and under the direction of the Forestry, Recreation and Land Committee and Forest Administrator.
- 14) **PICNIC AREA.** Any tract of land developed and maintained for picnicking, including adjacent recreational areas.
- 15) **PLAN.** The Vilas County Forest 15-Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan and all other documents referenced therein.
- 16) **SIGNS.**
  - a) *Guide Signs.* Signs used to direct a forest user or trail rider to a destination or trailside business on the trail.
  - b) *Informational Signs.* Signs used to furnish information to the forest user or trail rider about trails, facilities, or road crossings.
  - c) *You are Here Signs.* Signs used to help a forest user or trail rider find his or her location by providing a trail map with the location pointed out by the phrase

“You are Here”.

- d) *Regulatory Signs.* Signs used to define regulations on the forest or a trail

- 17) **RECREATIONAL LANDS.** All lands and water heretofore and hereafter acquired, leased, controlled or operated under authority of the Committee and designated for recreational use in the 15-year Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- 18) **RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.** All areas that have buildings, equipment, or improvements that are controlled, operated, and maintained on land designated by the Committee. The following recreational sites are included in the 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan and shall be shown on an official County map or listing at the Forestry Office located at 2112 N. Railroad Street, Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521:

Boot Lake Access Area  
 Dr. Oldfield Park Area  
 Eagle Lake Park Area  
 Forrest Street River Lot Park Area  
 Hunter Lake Park Area  
 Lake of The Hills Lake Access Area  
 McLeod Lake Park Area  
 Pickerel Creek Access Area  
 River Road River Access Area  
 Snipe Lake Access Area  
 Muskellunge Lake Access Area  
 Upper Buckatabon Lake Access Area  
 Tamarack Flowage Access Area  
 Cooks Lake Fishing Pier Area  
 Range Line Lake Park Area  
 Tellefson Lake Park Area  
 Deep Lake Access Area  
 Mud Minnow Lake Fishing Pier Area  
 Wood Duck Lake Fishing Pier Area  
 Ewald Lake Fishing Pier Area  
 Rummels Road River Access Area and Campsite Area  
 Tamarack Springs Park and Campground Area  
 Torch Lake Park and Campground Area  
 Buckatabon Creek River Access Area  
 Snyder Lake Access Area  
 Rice Lake Access Area  
 Lac Vieux Desert Park Area  
 Vilas County Shooting Range Area  
 Vilas County Fairgrounds and River Park Area  
 Oldenburg Sports Park Area  
 Equestrian Campground and Trailhead- River Road  
 Radio Controlled Flyers Park Area  
 OHM Trailhead Area  
 Cranberry Island Park Area

### 16.03 Committee Appointment.

The Vilas County Board hereby assigns oversight and policy making jurisdiction of the County Forestry, Recreation and Land Department to the Committee of this Board known as the Forestry, Recreation and Land Committee.

### 16.04 Powers and Duties of the Committee.

- (1) **POLICIES.** The Vilas County Forest 15-Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan and all documents referenced therein shall serve as policy for the operation of the department.
- (2) **LANDS AND FACILITIES.** Management and regulatory control of all lands and facilities designated in this chapter or not specifically designated to another committee of the Board of Supervisors are delegated to the Committee.
- (3) **SCOPE.** The provisions of this ordinance shall apply to all lands, structures, and property owned, leased, controlled or administered by Vilas County as determined in Chapter 16.04(2) of this chapter. All such lands shall be shown on an official map or listing at the Forestry Department located at 2112 N. Railroad St., Eagle River, Wisconsin, and in accordance with the records of the office of the Register of Deeds.
- (4) **COUNTY FOREST LANDS.** The Vilas County Forest shall include all lands now held or hereafter acquired for forestry or special use purposes and entered under the provisions of Section 28.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes.
- (5) **COUNTY RESERVED AND OTHER COUNTY LANDS.** Includes all lands administered under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not specified in §16.04(4) of this chapter.
- (6) **ANNUAL OPERATIONS.** The Committee shall approve an Annual Work Plan and Budget prepared by the Administrator for the Department operations for each ensuing year. The Committee shall submit the work plan and budget to the County Board whose approval shall establish the limits as well as purpose for which expenditures may be made.
- (7) **PERSONNEL.** The Committee shall oversee and create policy for the County Forestry, Recreation and Land Department subject to approval of the County Board. Vilas County shall employ a County Forest Administrator meeting training and experience

requirements of chapter 28.11 of Wisconsin Statutes as its agent regarding forest land assets, a Parks and Recreation Supervisor, a Recreation Patrol Officer and other competent personnel as the Board may authorize to direct, perform, and enforce the administration and management functions of this chapter.

(8) **HEADQUARTERS.** The Committee shall establish and maintain forest headquarters for office space and the housing of machinery, tools, equipment and supplies needed in conducting Forestry, Recreation and Land operations.

(9) **EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES.** The Committee may purchase, sell, trade, or dispose of equipment and supplies required for the operations of its Department in accordance with applicable Vilas County Board Standing Rules & Committee Duties.

(10) **LAND ACQUISITION.** The Committee or its agent may negotiate for the acquisition of lands and easements within the County Forest boundary by purchase, gift, bequest, or by exchange of County-owned lands outside the boundary for the purpose of blocking the forest for improvement of forest administration or for recreational purposes. Each such proposed acquisition must be presented to the County Board for its approval.

(11) **ENTRY OF LANDS.** The Committee may make application for entry under the County Forest Law as lands are acquired within the County Forest boundary.

(12) **PROTECTION.** The Committee shall do all things necessary for the protection of the forest, whether from fire, insects, disease, trespass, or from damage by animals or from other natural or human causes, in cooperation with law enforcement, the Department of Natural Resources and through regular maintenance and updates of the Chapter.

(13) **SURVEYS.** The Committee shall oversee the activities of the County Surveyor in locating survey lines and appropriately monument corners of County Forest Lands and Reserve Lands.

(14) **ROADS.** The Committee may construct, improve, and maintain a system of forest roads, trails and firebreaks and purchase secure easements for access required to cross privately owned lands to improve

access to County property.

(15) **FOREST IMPROVEMENT.** The Committee may conduct forest improvement work including reforestation, release cuttings, harvesting, thinning, pruning, and weeding by any method including manual, mechanical and chemical processes. These processes may include prescribed burning and/or spraying or dusting of chemicals by airplane and other methods which provide cost efficiency and are not prohibited by law.

(16) **FISH AND GAME.** The Committee shall coordinate and cooperate with the Department of Natural Resources on all matters relating to game and fish management. The Committee may also coordinate and cooperate with non-profit groups, and participate in grant programs to improve fish and game habitat on County lands.

(17) **SALE OF FOREST PRODUCTS.** The Committee may sell timber stumpage in accordance with the guidelines in the 15-Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

(18) **COOPERATION AND COORDINATION.** The Committee may enter into agreements with the U.S. Forest Service, Lakes States Forest Experiment Station, the University of Wisconsin, the Department of Natural Resources, School Districts or other groups as deemed appropriate for the use of County labor, materials, and equipment for conducting forest research, forest management, forest protection and recreational development and maintenance activities on County, Federal, State or School owned lands. The Committee will promote coordination of County land management plans with Federal and State Land management plans as allowed under Federal and State authorities and as required under Federal and State regulations.

(19) **SPECIAL USES.** The Committee may establish, construct and maintain recreation and interpretation facilities, boat landings, wild resource zones, aesthetic management zones, special use areas, and wildlife habitat. The Committee may complete special forest or recreation development work on school forests, community forests, and other public lands in Vilas County that provide public benefit.

(20) **PROSPECTING.** The Committee may enter into agreements to prospect for minerals

upon County lands under its jurisdiction subject to the approval by the County Board and the Department of Natural Resources.

(21) **USE PERMITS.** The Committee may authorize special uses of the County-owned lands by written permit. Any such permit shall be revocable for cause by written notice. The Committee may establish and charge fees for special use permits.

(22) **SAND AND GRAVEL PITS.** The Committee may issue permits to a municipality within Vilas County and County Departments for removal of sand and gravel from lands under its jurisdiction. The municipality shall submit a reclamation plan with this request. The reclamation plan shall follow State of Wisconsin Statutes and must be approved by the Committee prior to issuing a permit. The removal of sand and gravel from County Forest Lands shall be for public use only and may require royalties paid to the Department for material removed.

(23) **PLAN.** The Committee shall cooperate with the Department of Natural Resources in the establishment and maintenance of the Vilas County 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan. In addition, the Committee will cooperate in the determination of the allowable annual cut, an inventory of growing stock and an acreage assessment including establishment of compartments, and other necessary items for such plan. The 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use plan shall incorporate recreational uses and facilities on County lands as an active part of the plan.

### 16.05 Annual Report.

The Committee shall provide an annual report of department activities prepared by the Forest Administrator to the County Board. The report shall include statistics showing work accomplished and at what cost. Such reports shall be sufficient in detail so that performance of the Forestry Department may be measured.

### 16.06 Forest Finances.

#### (1) **SEGREGATED LAND FUND 250**

- a. **SALE OF COUNTY FOREST LANDS.** All proceeds from the sale or trade of County Forest Lands (see

section 16.04(4) COUNTY FOREST LANDS) shall be credited to the Segregated Land Fund 250 and such fund shall be non-lapsing.

- b. **10% OF TIMBER SALE PROCEEDS FOR LAND PURCHASE AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.** In addition, 10% of Timber Sale Revenues shall be set aside annually and placed into the Segregated Land Fund 250. The year-end balance of the Segregated Land Fund 250 is limited to an annual maximum amount of \$300,000.00. Proceeds over and above this cap shall be deposited in the General Fund, per County Board Resolution 2016-51.

- i. Funds within the Segregated Land Fund 250 generated from sale of County Forest Lands shall have use limited to purchase of replacement County Forest Lands.
- ii. Funds generated by deposit of 10% of timber sale revenue shall be utilized for purchase of additional County Forest Lands or establishment or refurbishment of recreational facilities or trails within the County Forest.

- c. **SALE OF TAX DELINQUENT LAND.** All proceeds from the sale of tax delinquent parcels are deposited into the General Fund, per County Board Resolution 2019-21.

- (2) **NON-LAPSING ACCOUNTS FOR RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.** Non-lapsing accounts shall be retained and budgeted to develop new and/or improve existing recreational facilities as identified in the 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan-Capital Improvements.

- a. **GROUP AND USER DONATIONS.** Proceeds generated from group or user donations at recreational facilities or trails shall be deposited into non-lapsing



accounts and utilized to develop or improve facilities as identified in the 15-year Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

(3) **GENERAL FUND.**

a. ***TIMBER, PERMIT FEES, SALE OF MATERIALS.*** All monies received from the sale of timber stumpage, cut forest products, fees, and access permits, user fees, sale of building materials, sale of surplus materials and equipment, fire or other damage collections or miscellaneous revenues received by the Forestry, Recreation and Land Committee will be deposited in the General Fund at the end of the year unless otherwise specified under Sec. 16.06 of the Chapter.

b. ***SEVERANCE ACCOUNTS.*** All monies received from the sale of timber stumpage and cut forest products as provided under §28.11(9), Wis. Stats., and amendment thereof shall be distributed from the General Fund as required.

(4) **STATE FUNDS.** All allotments from state funds under §28.11(8)(b) State Forest Aid Fund, §86.315 Road Aids, §92.14 Land Conservation Fund, §23.09(17m) Habitat Development Grant, §23.09(12) County Fish and Game Fund, §23.09(26) Snowmobile Aids, and §23.09(25) Motorcycle Aid Program, of the Wisconsin Statutes, shall be deposited in their respective funds and shall be non-lapsing, except that the County Forest Administrator's Grant shall be deposited into the State Forest Aid Account, and withdrawals shall be made quarterly or semi-annually by the County Clerk for the salary of the Forest Administrator.

## 16.07 Forest and Land Use Regulations.

1) **DESIGNATION OF FOREST LANDS.**

All lands and facilities owned, leased, controlled, or operated by the Committee and

not designated under Chapter 27, Wis. Stats., shall be considered forest lands and regulated by this chapter.

2) **USE OF COUNTY OWNED LANDS AND FACILITIES IN PROMOTIONS OR ADVERTISING.**

No person or legal entity shall utilize County owned lands or facilities in promotions or advertising including but not limited to signage, printed distributions, photos, public announcements or other advertising unless such promotions or advertising includes reference to ownership and operation of lands and facilities by the Vilas County Forest, Recreation and Land Department and are reviewed and approved by the Committee prior to use. Committee prior to approval, may require donations, payments or modification of promotions or advertising to benefit County land management, facility development or promotion of County facilities.

3) **FOREST PRODUCTS HARVEST (COMMERCIAL).**

a) ***Timber Cutting.*** No person shall complete commercial cutting, salvage cuttings, and cultural cuttings or harvest of any merchantable timber product on lands designated in this chapter without a written permit, or contract approved by the Committee.

b) ***Firewood and Special Products*** No person shall complete commercial harvesting of firewood or specialty products without a contract or written permit approved by the Committee.

c) ***Product Theft.*** No person shall remove any plant, tree, parts of a tree, or other forest products from any County lands designated in this chapter except as authorized by the Committee or its agents by written permit, contract, or policy. Picking fruit, berries, nuts and mushrooms is permitted.

4) **MISCELLANEOUS FOREST PRODUCTS (NON-COMMERCIAL).**

a) ***PERMIT REQUIRED.*** No person shall gather firewood, Christmas trees, boughs and other miscellaneous forest products except fruits, seeds, or berries for personal use without a written permit approved by the Committee. Specific additional products will need approval by the Committee before a permit could be issued.

b) *TREATY RIGHTS.* Any treaty rights participant as covered in decision dated 19 March 1991, in case number 74-C-313-C, the Honorable Barbara B. Crabb, District Judge for the Federal District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, interested in gathering firewood, tree bark, maple sap, lodge poles, bows, marsh hay, or other miscellaneous forest products (except fruits, seeds, or berries not enumerated in County Ordinances), from County-owned land shall obtain a County Gathering Permit from the County Forestry Department prior to the exercise of said gathering rights. Any treaty rights participant gathering miscellaneous forest products without first obtaining a gathering permit shall be subject to all existing penalties provided for in County Ordinances, including trespass and timber theft charges.

i) *Application and Processing.* The County Forest Administrator shall prepare an appropriate application requesting pertinent information from all treaty rights participants who seek to gather miscellaneous forest products on County Forest Lands. Said application shall be available upon request. Those treaty rights participants who seek to gather miscellaneous forest products shall provide proper identification and present a valid tribal membership card upon submission of an application with the County. Upon receipt of an application, the County shall respond to the gathering permit request no later than fourteen (14) days after receipt of said application. Said response shall either grant or deny the request. Should the request be denied, the reasons for said denial shall be set forth in the response of the County, including the basis for said denial with specific reference to the limitations set forth in 16.07(4)b.iii.) below. Any application which is incomplete or incorrectly prepared shall be returned within said fourteen (14) days to the applicant with specific directions as to which portion or portions of said applications are defective.

ii) *Rights Granted By Said Permit.* The gathering permit shall indicate the location of the material to be gathered, the volume of the material to be gathered, and any additional conditions on the gathering of the material necessary for conservation of timber or miscellaneous forest products on County land, or for public health and safety.

iii) *Denial Of Gathering Permit.* The County may not deny a request to gather miscellaneous forest products under Treaty Rights on County property under the terms of this Ordinance unless:

- (1) The gathering is inconsistent with the forest management plan for said property;
- (2) The gathering will conflict with pre-existing rights of a permittee or other person possessing an approval to conduct an activity on the property, including a contractor of the County; or otherwise inconsistent with conservation or public health or safety.

## 5) **DAMAGE TO COUNTY PROPERTY.**

- a) *Destruction.* No person shall disturb, vandalize, damage, deface, remove or destroy any trees, shrubs, plants, other natural growth, sand or gravel; carve on any rocks, archaeological or geological features, signs, walls, tables or structures; drive nails into trees; or remove, injure, or deface in any manner any structures including buildings, signs, gates, fences, tables, or other County property. The picking of fruits, berries, nuts, and mushrooms is permitted. Damage to trees and cutting of shooting lanes resulting from hunting activity shall be part of this subsection.
- b) *Entry.* No person shall enter or access any building, installation, area, or trail that is locked or closed to public use or contrary to public or posted notice without a written permit from the Committee.
- c) *Tampering.* No person shall tamper with any sign, gate, lock, equipment, building, installation, water control structure, device, dam or culvert, a swimming boundary

buoy or marker on any lands or waters adjacent to lands under control of the Committee.

- 6) **SPECIAL USE PERMITS.** Special use of specific areas of County lands shall be authorized only by written permit issued by the Committee. No individual, organization or business may utilize County property as the base or sole property for events or as any part of commercial operations without first obtaining a special use permit.

- a) *Non-Profit or Municipal Use-* Recreational use of specific areas of County-owned lands as the base or sole property for events by non-profit incorporated organizations or municipal entities, including ski clubs, snowmobile clubs, ATV/UTV clubs, Off-Highway Motorcycle clubs, Equestrian clubs, Towns and other organizations require a written permit issued and approved by the Committee. Permits may require insurance binders as determined appropriate by the Committee.
- b) *Reserved Areas-* Private individuals and non-profit organizations may receive special use permits as part of fee reservation systems for pavilion and park areas as approved by the Committee.
- c) *Commercial Use-* Use of County facilities or property for monetary gain by businesses require a special use permit. Permits may require fees and insurance binders as determined appropriate by the Committee.

7) **REFUSE.**

- a) No person shall leave or dump any litter, rubbish, debris, dirt, stone, stumps, yard waste or other materials on any County-owned lands.
- b) Waste receptacles at recreational facilities are for waste deposition by the department or those utilizing the facility under a permit, no person shall utilize waste receptacles on County owned property for deposition of personal waste.

- 8) **FIRES.** No person shall start, tend, or maintain any fire on the ground, or burn any refuse, trash, slash or litter except burning of clean dry firewood or charcoal in fire rings or grills established in developed recreational areas. No person shall leave any fire unattended, or throw away any matches,

cigarettes, cigars, or pipe ashes or any embers without first extinguishing them. No person shall start, tend, or use in any manner any fire contrary to posted notice on any lands or property under the management, supervision, and control of the Committee. Prescribed fire may be authorized by the Committee for meeting purposes of the department.

- 9) **EXPLORING OR PROSPECTING.** No person shall explore or prospect for minerals or materials on County-owned lands without a written permit from the Committee and approved by the County Board. Prospecting shall include the use of metal detecting equipment.

- 10) **HUNTING STANDS AND BLINDS.** No person shall erect, occupy, or use other than a commercially available, factory manufactured portable tree stand, ground blind or elevated platform for hunting purposes and only during the period from September 1st through January 15th and for no more than eleven (11) consecutive days. Climbing devices to access the portable stand or elevated platform shall be of the ladder type or steps that are attached to the tree with binding straps or chains. Climbing stands that do not damage the tree will be permissible. Penetration of any part of the tree by the combination of stand, platform or climbing device is strictly prohibited. Each licensed hunter shall be limited to one portable tree stand, ground blind, or platform that complies with this Section. Portable tree stands, ground blinds, and elevated platforms must have the owner's name, address and telephone number permanently attached to the climbing device, or ground blind at four (4) feet above ground level. Portable tree stands, ground blinds, and elevated platforms found in violation of this Section will be removed by the County. Persons found in violation of this ordinance shall be subject to citation and a forfeiture. Commercially available portable ground blinds may be utilized with the same restrictions as above. Ground blinds may also be constructed only of natural materials (e.g., no manufactured or processed materials, including sawn lumber). Cutting of shooting lanes is not allowed. No nails, screws or metal objects may be placed into any tree. No damage may occur to trees. Damage to trees and cutting of shooting lanes shall be a

violation of 16.07 5(a) of the Chapter.

- 11) **FOREST ACCESS.** No person shall block or restrict access to any trail, road, parking area, or recreational facility, or intentionally interfere with lands and facilities under the management and regulatory control of the Committee. This restriction is also enforceable on private roadways authorized through an access permit. Access closure by the department is exempt from this subsection.

12) **PETS.**

a) *Within Developed Recreational Areas.*

- i) *Pet Restricted Areas.* No person shall allow his/her dog, cat or other pet to be in any building or upon any swimming beach, picnic area, or playground. These restricted areas shall include:

Dr. Oldfield Park Area  
Eagle Lake Park Area  
Forest Street River Lot Park Area  
Hunter Lake Park Area  
Snipe Lake Access and Park Area  
Range Line Lake Park Area  
Torch Lake Park  
Vilas County Shooting Range Area  
Oldenburg Sports Park Area  
Lac Vieux Desert Park Area  
Other Areas Posted by the Committee

Nothing in this section shall prohibit the use of service animals. Service animals shall be identified as such and shall be controlled with a leash not more than 8 feet long and under the control of the owner at all times. Service pet owner shall immediately retrieve and dispose of all animal waste to maintain sanitary conditions.

- i) *Leash Required Areas.* Within all developed recreational areas, campgrounds and established trails that are not restricted, no person shall possess dogs, cats, and other pets unless the pet is on a leash not more than 8 feet long and under the control of the owner at all times. No person shall fail to prevent his/her dog, cat or other pet from interfering in any manner with the enjoyment of the area by others. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the use of

service animals. Pet owner shall immediately retrieve and dispose of all animal waste to maintain sanitary conditions.

b) *Within Extensive Use Forest Areas.*

Dogs, Cats and other pets may run without a leash while still under the control of the owner at all times. No person shall fail to prevent his/her dog, cat or other pet from interfering in any manner with the enjoyment of the area by others. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the use of service animals.

7) **SIGNAGE, PEDDLING AND SOLICITING.**

No person shall peddle or solicit business of any nature whatsoever or distribute handbills or other advertising matter, post unauthorized signs or decorative matter on any lands, structure, or property under the management, supervision, or control of the Committee, or use such lands, structures, or property as a base of commercial operations for soliciting or conducting business, peddling, or providing services within or outside of such lands, structures, or property, with the exception that 'Guide Signs', 'Informational Signs', and 'You are Here Signs' as defined in this chapter and in conformance with §350.13 Wis. Stats., and §23.33, Wis. Stats., Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource Administrative Code Chapters NR 50 and Chapter NR64, and the WDNR 'Trail Signing Handbook' [PUB-CF- 023 2012] may be placed on County Forest Lands with written approval. Design and location of said signs must be approved by the Committee or its agent prior to placement on County Forest Lands. Informational signs approved by committee shall have standard colors of white lettering with brown background and may include the county logo with identification of the "Forestry, Recreation and Land Department"

8) **VEHICLES AND VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.**

- a) *Damage by Vehicle.* No person shall operate a vehicle for recreational use or other purpose in or on any property administered by the Committee in such a manner as to cause intentional soil displacement, soil erosion, soil or water



- pollution or other environmental damage as determined by the Department
- b) *Abandoned Vehicles.* As used in this section, vehicle means any motor vehicle, boat, ATV, UTV, motorcycle snowmobile, trailer, semi-trailer, mobile home, or any other vehicle as determined abandoned. No person shall leave any vehicle unattended without prior Committee authority for more than 48 hours under such circumstances as to cause the vehicle to reasonably appear to have been abandoned. An abandoned vehicle shall constitute a public nuisance and may be removed from County property by the department.
- c) *Speed.* No person shall operate any vehicle at a speed in excess of 15 miles per hour in any developed recreational facility or contrary to official traffic signs on any road or recreational trail. No person shall operate any vehicle on County forest roads without posted speed limits at speeds exceeding 35 miles per hour. No person shall operate any vehicle on any trail or road at unreasonable speeds or speeds which create questionable safety for the operator, passengers or other users of the County lands.
- d) *Parking.* No person shall park, stop or leave standing, whether attended or unattended, any vehicle or watercraft, in any manner as to block, obstruct, or limit the use of any road, trail, waterway, or facility, or contrary to posted notice.
- e) *Licensed Motor Vehicles.* Use of licensed motor vehicles on County land is only authorized on roadways and trails not designated as closed by signs, gates (open or closed) or physical barriers. Cross country or use of motor vehicles on closed roads is a violation with exception of individuals with an approved permit as part of a special use or land use permit or with a valid Power-Driven Mobility Device permit including a specific machine and a specific area or other permits as approved by the Committee.
- f) *Off-Highway Motorcycles (OHM).* Use of OHM on County land is only authorized on trails or routes designated on the Vilas County OHM Trails Map and on approved access roads or trails which are appropriately signed as open to OHM. Cross country or use of OHM on roads or trails not posted as open is a violation with exception of individuals with an approved Power-Driven Mobility Device permit including a specific machine and a specific area or other permits as approved by the Committee. No person shall operate OHM in unauthorized areas.
- g) *All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) and Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV).* Use of ATV and UTV on County land is only authorized on trails or routes designated on the Vilas County ATV/UTV Trails Map and on approved access roads which are appropriately signed as open to ATV/UTV use. (need to post access roads in Torch Lake Campground) Cross country or use of ATV/UTV on roads not posted as open is a violation, with exception of individuals with an approved Power-Driven Mobility Device permit including a specific machine and a specific area or other permits as approved by the Committee.
- h) *Snowmobiles.* Use of Snowmobiles on County land is only authorized on trails or routes designated on the Vilas County Snowmobile Trails Map and on approved access roads which are appropriately signed as open to Snowmobiles. Cross country or use of Snowmobiles on roads not posted as open is a violation with exception of individuals with an approved Power-Driven Mobility Device permit including a specific machine and a specific area or other permits as approved by the Committee.
- i) *Watercraft.*
- i) No person shall moor, anchor, or leave unattended any watercraft overnight in the waters of any recreation site or land under the management, supervision and control of the Committee.
  - ii) No person shall remain overnight in any watercraft in the waters of any

recreation site under the management, supervision, and control of the Committee.

- iii) No person shall operate a boat within any water area marked by buoys or other approved regulatory devices as a swimming beach, nor operate a watercraft in a restricted area contrary to regulatory notice marked on buoys or other approved regulatory devices.
- iv) No person shall power-launch or power-load watercraft in any landing operated by Vilas County.
- v) Official Use Exempt This subsection, in its entirety does not apply for emergency response, patrol watercraft or departmental watercraft.
- j) *Bicycles.* No person shall operate a bicycle in any area that is signed as restricted for bicycle use. Bicycle use is restricted on designated motorized trails on County property. Cross country use of bicycles or use on unapproved trails is a violation of the Chapter.
- k) *Animal Propelled Wheeled Wagons or Carts.* No person shall operate an animal propelled wheeled wagon in any area that is closed to vehicles as defined by barriers or signs, unless part of a permitted special use.

## 9) CAMPING.

- a) *Permits Required.* All camping requires a permit approved by the Committee. No person shall camp at developed recreational sites or on lands under control and management of the Committee without a permit and the payment of the prescribed fees. No person shall obtain a camping permit for use by a camping party of which that person is not a member.
- b) *Fees Required.* No person shall camp at developed recreational sites or on lands under control and management of the Committee prior to the payment of the required permit fees. Camping fees must be paid and a permit obtained before setting up camp.
- c) *Reservations Required.* Reservations must be made in advance to stay at Torch

Lake, Equestrian, and Tamarack Springs Campgrounds and all areas designated by the Committee.

- d) *Length of Stay.* Camping at developed campgrounds including Torch Lake, Equestrian, and Tamarack Springs and other sites defined by the Committee shall not exceed 10 consecutive days. Camping at remote campsites approved by the Committee, shall not exceed 2 days. Camping at remote campsites adjacent to the Wisconsin River Water Trail shall not exceed 24 hours. All camping permits expire at 3:00 p.m. on the last day of the permit period. After the 10-day limit, the camping unit must be removed from the property for at least 2 days before being eligible to return.
- e) *Campsite Occupancy.* A campsite must be occupied by a camping unit on the first night of the permit period, and no campsite may be left unoccupied by the camping party for more than 48 hours. Any tent, equipment or motor vehicle not occupied for more than 48 hours may be removed by the Department at the owner's expense. No more than one recreational trailer, motor home, or two enclosed tents may occupy an individual campsite. No more than two licensed vehicles are allowed at any individual campsite. Parking of excess vehicles is not allowed on camping access roads or grass areas.
- ~~f) *Dispersed Camping at Undeveloped Sites.* Camping in undeveloped areas of the County forest may be authorized by a permit. Permits will not be authorized within 1 mile of any developed recreational facility or park. Use of campground facilities or amenities as identified in 16.07-15, is not authorized under any dispersed camping permit. A permit must be obtained from the Forestry, Recreation and Land Office. Users are required to provide a detailed description of the location and pay fees prior to setting up camp or issuance of a permit. Sites approved must be accessible by employees utilizing a motor vehicle to provide for site inspections. Permits will include~~

~~restrictions as identified in 14a., 14b., 14c., and 14e. above. Campers shall follow any restrictions or requirements as identified in the permit. Permits may be refused for inappropriate or restricted area site selection. The number of permitted sites will be limited to 2 sites per square mile at any one time unless part of an event as authorized by a Special Use Permit. All permitting for camping or permits at specific sites may be refused at any time due to excessive drought, high wildfire danger, forestry activity, incompatible uses, conflicts with the Chapter or other limitations as determined by appropriate by the department.~~ (MAY BE DELETED AT COMMITTEE MEETING DUE TO DATCP WATER AND SEWAGE REQUIREMENTS?)

- g) *Camping Violations.* Any camper who has violated the terms of this chapter or the Wisconsin Statutes that are part of this chapter shall be subject to immediate ejection from the County-owned lands and may be subject to forfeiture for violations and possible damage recovery by court action.

#### **10) USE OF CAMPGROUND FACILITIES AND AMMENITIES.**

- a) *Use of shower and toilet facilities.* Use of campground showers or toilets are reserved for registered campers, their direct visitors during registered stays and those that have purchased a use permit from the department. No person shall utilize shower or toilet facilities of a campground without registration or permit. Department employees are exempt during working hours.
- b) *Use of campground water and electrical systems.* Use of campground water and electrical systems are reserved for registered campers, their direct visitors during registered stays and those that have purchased a use permit from the department. No person shall utilize water and electrical systems of a campground without registration or permit. Department employees are exempt during working hours.
- c) *Use of campground dump stations or*

*sewage systems.* Use of campground dump stations and sewage systems are reserved for registered campers during registered stays and those that have purchased a use permit from the department. The Torch Lake Campground provides for a pay tube to allow payment of fees at time of use of the dump station. No person shall utilize dump stations or sewage systems of a campground without registration, permit or prior to payment at payment tube.

- d) *Use of campground roadways and parking.* Use of campground roadways and parking are reserved for registered campers, their direct visitors during registered stays and those that have purchased a use permit and from the department. No person shall utilize roadways or parking areas of a campground without registration or permit. Department employees are exempt during working hours.
- e) *Use of campground amenities.* Use of campground amenities including, but not limited to, internet service, playgrounds, grills, fire pits and picnic tables are reserved for registered campers, their direct visitors during registered stays and those that have purchased a use permit from the department. No person shall utilize amenities of a campground without registration or permit. Department employees are exempt during working hours.

- 11) **FIREWORKS.** No person shall possess, fire, discharge, explode or set off any explosives or pyrotechnic device containing powder or other combustible or explosive material on any land or within a recreation site under the management, supervision and control of the Committee or contrary to posted notice. Discharge and firing of explosives or pyrotechnic devices containing powder or other combustible or explosive material from neighboring lands which terminate on land under control of the Committee shall be considered a violation of the Chapter.

- 12) **FIREARMS.** "Firearm" shall mean any rifle, pistol, shotgun, air gun or other device whose function is similar to that of a firearm.
- a) *Within Designated Recreational*

*Facilities* No person shall have in his possession or under his control any firearm or air-gun as defined in §939.22, Wis. Stats., or slingshot or spring-loaded device designed for shooting a projectile, unless the same is unloaded and enclosed in a carrying case, or any bow unless same is unstrung or enclosed in a case at any established recreational facility with the exception of established shooting ranges, or as otherwise allowed by Wis. Stat. §941.23.

*b) Within Extensive Use Forest Areas*

Firearm or bow possession and use is authorized for hunting and personal protection in all areas not designated as a recreational facility. Target shooting is prohibited on County lands except at an established County shooting range as designated by the Committee.

*c) Within Defined Shooting Ranges.* No person shall discharge any firearm, air gun, or bow in any shooting range under management, supervision, and control of the Committee contrary to posted regulations. The following are the general rules at shooting ranges:

- i) Whenever a person is down range for any reason, all individuals in the range shall cease firing and unload and break open the actions of their firearms. Firearms are not permitted down range from the shooting benches in the target access area. Loaded firearms are permitted only at the designated firing benches. Actions of firearms are to be in the open position until the shooter is ready to fire.
- ii) All firearms are to be shot or fired only into the backstops. No targets are to be placed on the ground. Targets are to be placed only on target holders. No targets are to be placed on or on top of the backstops. All rifle and pistol shooting must impact the target holders and backstops.
- iii) Targets. Only paper or cardboard targets may be used in the rifle and pistol shooting range. In the shotgun area only, clay-birds may be used for

targets. It is unlawful to shoot at glass, plastic or metal targets. The use of explosive and incendiary targets or devices are strictly prohibited.

- iv) Users of the range must remove all refuse (cans, plastic containers, paper, shotshell and cartridge casings, etc.) from the range when finished and must dispose of such refuse at an appropriate disposal site at their own cost.
- v) Alcoholic beverages and containers are absolutely prohibited at the shooting range site and shall not be consumed on or brought to the premises. It shall be unlawful to discharge any firearm in the range while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs or be present at the range while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs as determined by a law enforcement officer. Under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs means that the actor's ability to handle a firearm is materially impacted because of his or her consumption of an alcoholic beverage, of a controlled substance or controlled substance analog under Chapter 961 of the Wisconsin Statutes, of any combination of an alcoholic beverage, controlled substance and controlled substance analog, or of any other drug or of an alcoholic beverage and any other drug.
- vi) Range Hours- The Range is open spring, summer, and fall during daylight hours within the period from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. or sunset, whichever is first. The range will be temporarily closed for maintenance activity when posted at the highway gate. The range is closed during the winter season. Exception: the range is open from sunrise to sunset from the Saturday prior to the Wisconsin Gun Deer Season to (and including) the final day of the muzzleloader season. No activity is permitted on the berms or



- the backstops, including the mining of lead or copper.
- vii) Fully automatic weapons are prohibited on the Range. The use of armor piercing, tracer, or incendiary ammunition is prohibited. Any centerfire cartridge with a projectile larger than .50 cal. is prohibited, except shotgun shells containing a slug may be used at the rifle ranges.
- viii) It shall be unlawful to discharge any firearm in any area within the Range not specifically designated for such use.
- ix) No pets are allowed at the Range.
- x) Shooters under the age of 14 years must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or an adult designated by the parent or guardian.

**19) WILDLIFE TAKE- HUNTING,**

**TRAPPING AND FISHING.** Any wildlife take must follow state and federal regulations and rules, licensing, in addition to limitations placed in the Chapter. Outdoor recreation including hunting, fishing and trapping are uses required under §28.11, however the County can restrict hunting fishing and trapping in areas where these uses create safety issues for other public uses.

- a) **HUNTING AND TRAPPING- RESTRICTED AREAS.** No person shall take, catch, kill, hunt, trap, pursue or otherwise disturb any wild animals, bird or any other wildlife contrary to posted notice or in the following time frames and areas:
  - i) *Hunting and Trapping are restricted Year-round in all area within 500 feet of:*
    - Eagle Lake Park
    - Hunter Lake Park
    - Vilas County Shooting Range
    - Highway G Landfill
    - Oldenburg Park
    - Dr. Oldfield Memorial Park
    - Vilas County Fairgrounds
  - ii) *Hunting and Trapping are restricted from April 1st- November 1st in all areas within 500 feet of:*
    - Torch Lake Campground and Park
    - Equestrian Campground
    - Tamarack Springs Campground

- iii) Other areas under the management, supervision and control of the Committee and restricted by Committee action.

**b) BAITING AND FEEDING OF WILDLIFE**

- i) No person shall utilize baiting or feeding of wildlife on County lands when state regulations do not allow such use or in periods from January 15<sup>th</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> of any year.
- ii) No person shall plant forage, grasses, shrubbery, or trees on County property to lure wildlife for any purpose.

- c) **FISHING.** No person shall take, catch, kill, hunt, trap, pursue or otherwise disturb any fish contrary to posted notice or water areas marked by buoys or other approved regulatory devices as a swimming area. Restricted Swimming areas shall include:

- Torch Lake Park
- Eagle Lake Park
- Hunter Lake Park
- Other areas as marked with buoys by the Committee.

**20) EQUINE USE AND EQUINE**

**TRANSPORTATION.** **Option #2:** Equine users shall retain all responsibility and liability for the safety of the public in relation to use or possession of equine animals on County property. No person shall ride a horse or other equine in any recreation facility, with the exception of the Equestrian Campground on River Road. Equine use may be authorized in other facilities for events and under approved permits. Use of wagons, carts or attachments to animals is limited to roadways open to motor vehicles. Equine use is allowed on all lands outside of posted facilities unless posted closed to equine use. **Equine users shall retain all responsibility for potential of equine disturbance from other authorized users of County lands including but not limited to motorized vehicles, controlled pets, and loud noises.**

- 21) **PERSONAL CONDUCT.** No person shall engage in any violent, abusive, loud, boisterous, vulgar, lewd, wanton, obscene, or otherwise disorderly conduct tending to create a breach of the peace or to disturb or annoy others on any lands or recreation areas under the management, supervision and control of the Committee. The Department may expel any

person from lands for any violation of any state law, county ordinance or contrary to posted rules or regulations and violations may result in forfeiture under the Chapter.

- 22) **UNDUE OR UNNECESSARY NOISES.** No person shall operate soundtracks, loud speakers, motors, motorboats, motor vehicles or any other mechanical devices that produce undue or unnecessary noises within hearing of occupants of any recreational facility.
- 23) **HOURS OF OPERATION FOR DEVELOPED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.** No person except registered campers in or in route to designated campsites shall park or enter any developed recreational facility or boat landing site between sunset and sunrise unless launching or removing a watercraft from a public waterway.
- 24) **AREAS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.** The Department may close, by posted notice, any land area, recreational facility, unfunded road, or trail, for purpose, with approval of the Committee.
- 25) **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF WATERBODIES.** No person shall wash cars, persons, pets, cooking utensils, or clothing in any waters adjacent to lands under the management, supervision, and control of the Committee.
- 26) **SWIMMING.** No person shall swim more than 50 yards from shoreline, swim outside of swimming area boundaries, swim in water depths beyond swimming capabilities, or swim in any area marked "no swimming" on any land or water access under the management, supervision, and control of the Committee.
- 27) **FEES AND CHARGES.** No person shall use any facility, land or area for which a fee or charge has been established by the Committee without payment of such fee or charge.
- 28) **SPECIAL RESTRICTION AREAS: Option #1**
  - a) Equestrian Campground:
    - i) *Limitation of Use:* Due to concerns with public safety related to equine animals, use of the Equestrian Campground is limited to registered users that possess an equine animal, on site, during the use of the facility
    - ii) *Animal Distancing:* Within the Equestrian Campground, due to concerns with public safety related to

equine animals, all people shall maintain a distance of at least 20 feet from any equine animal unless that person is the owner of such animal or is authorized by the owner of such animal. Parents of children utilizing the Equestrian Campground Facility shall retain the responsibility to ensure that children follow this restriction at all times.

- iii) *Motorized Recreational Vehicle Restriction:* To preclude equine animal disturbance within the campground, use of motorized recreational vehicles including ATV/UTV's and Off-Highway Motorcycles is restricted within the Equestrian Campground
- iv) *Noise Restrictions:* To preclude equine animal disturbance within the campground, no person shall have noise levels at any time which disturbs equine animals on the site.

## 16.08 Survey Regulations.

- 1) **SURVEY MONUMENTS.** No person shall remove, cover, bury, destroy, or deface any survey monument, corner post, monument accessory, witness tree, bearing tree, or survey accessory on any lands within Vilas County, without following §59.74, Wis. Stats.
- 2) **FILING OF SURVEYS.** A correct and true copy of all surveys for individuals or corporations performed by any land surveyor of land in Vilas County must be filed in the Office of the Vilas County Surveyor within 60 days after completion of the survey.

## 16.09 Enforcement and Penalty Assessments.

- 1) **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.** Any person upon land or waters under the management, supervision, and control of the Committee shall present identification to department employees or law enforcement upon request. Persons may request identification from employees prior to verify official status prior to providing information. Employee information may include business card with County logo or official employee identification cards.

- 2) **ENFORCEMENT.** Any law enforcement officer may enforce the provisions of this chapter. Citations by law enforcement officers may be based upon personal observations or based upon information and documentation provided by department employees.
- 3) **PENALTY ASSESSMENTS.** Any person, firm, or corporation, including those doing work for others who shall violate any of the provisions of the Ordinance shall:
- a) Upon conviction thereof, forfeit to Vilas County the sum of not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$500.00 plus the penalty assessment imposed. Each day a violation exists shall constitute a distinct and separate violation of this Ordinance and as such, forfeitures shall apply accordingly.
  - b) In addition to the penalties above, any person damaging the property of the County or another person shall remain liable in a civil action for the amount of that damage.
  - c) Any person who possesses a gathering permit, and gathers beyond the authority granted in the permit, or who causes damage to the timber or miscellaneous forest products on County land, shall be assessed a forfeiture of not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$200.00 for the first offense and not less than \$75.00 nor more than \$300.00 for every subsequent offense within twelve (12) months of the first offense.
- 4) **INJUNCTION.** Any use or action which violates the provisions of this Ordinance shall be subject to a court injunction prohibiting such violation.
- 5) **RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPLIANCE.** Any person, firm, or corporation causing a violation or refusing to comply with any provisions of this Ordinance will be notified in writing of such violation by the County Forest Administrator or his designated representative, giving the person responsible a time period not to exceed 30 days from the date on the letter of notification to have the violation brought into compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance. Each day a violation exists thereafter shall constitute a distinct and separate violation of this Ordinance, and as such forfeitures shall apply accordingly.

#### **16.10 Conflicts.**

Any and all Ordinances or Resolutions of Vilas County, or any portion of said Ordinances or Resolutions to the contrary or in derogation of the above sections, are hereby repealed only insofar as conflict exists.

**16.11 Publication.** This Ordinance will take effect and be in force upon passage and publication as provided by law.

#### **16.12 Uniform Schedule of Deposits.**

**(1) COUNTY FOREST AND LAND FORFEITURE SCHEDULE AND TOTAL DEPOSIT.**

(see addendum A)

**ADDENDUM A- SCHEDULE OF  
FORFEITURES**

DRAFT